

NOTES FOR A STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE BY  
HONOURABLE LEO BERNIER, MINISTER OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS  
25 May 1979

THE TOWNSHIP OF FIELD AND OUTLINE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STURGEON  
ESTABLISH COMMUNITY LIFE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF STURGEON

THE TOWNSHIP OF STURGEON IS A TOWNSHIP OF 200 RESIDENTS APPROXIMATELY  
LOCATED NORTHWEST OF STURGEON FALLS. IT WAS  
COMPLETELY INUNDATED WHEN THE STURGEON RIVER  
OVERFLOWED IN EARLY THIS MONTH AND ALL 94 HOMES IN THE  
TOWNSHIP HAD TO BE EVACUATED.

THE TOWNSHIP OF STURGEON IS VISITING THE PREMIER'S VISIT THERE AT THE HEAVEN  
TOWNSHIP IT WAS DECLARED A DISASTER AREA AND THE  
TOWNSHIP AGREED TO PROVIDE \$4 TO EACH \$1 RAISED THROUGH  
A \$1.00 SUBSCRIPTION

WE HAVE BEEN VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE SYMPATHY  
AND TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA AND  
SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITIES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF STURGEON  
THROUGH SIMILAR ORDERS IN THE TOWNSHIP



NOTES FOR A STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE BY  
HONOURABLE LEO BERNIER, MINISTER OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS  
25 MAY 1979

MR. SPEAKER:

LAST NIGHT I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO MEET THE COUNCIL  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FIELD AND OUTLINE OUR OFFER OF SUPPORT  
TO RE-ESTABLISH COMMUNITY LIFE IN THEIR FLOOD DEVESTATED  
AREA.

AS MANY MEMBERS KNOW THE VILLAGE OF FIELD IS A  
SETTLEMENT OF MORE THAN 300 RESIDENTS APPROXIMATELY  
22 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF STURGEON FALLS. IT WAS  
ALMOST COMPLETELY INUNDATED WHEN THE STURGEON RIVER  
OVERFLOWED EARLY THIS MONTH AND ALL 94 HOMES IN THE  
COMMUNITY HAD TO BE EVACUATED.

FOLLOWING THE PREMIER'S VISIT THERE AT THE HEIGHT  
OF THE FLOOD IT WAS DECLARED A DISASTER AREA AND THE  
PROVINCE AGREED TO PROVIDE \$4 TO EACH \$1 RAISED THROUGH  
PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION.

WE HAVE ALL BEEN VERY GRATIFIED BY THE SYMPATHETIC  
RESPONSE TO THE FIELD TRAGEDY FROM ACROSS CANADA AND  
PARTICULARLY FROM COMMUNITIES LIKE COBALT WHICH CAME  
THROUGH SIMILAR ORDEALS IN THE PAST.

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NOTES FOR A STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE BY  
HONOURABLE LEO BERNIER, MINISTER OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS  
22 MAY 1978

MR. SPEAKER:

LAST NIGHT I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO MEET THE COUNCIL  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FIELD AND OUTLINE OUR OFFER OF SUPPORT  
TO RE-ESTABLISH COMMUNITY LIFE IN THEIR FLOOD DEVASTATED  
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AS MANY MEMBERS KNOW THE VILLAGE OF FIELD IS A  
SETTLEMENT OF MORE THAN 200 RESIDENTS APPROXIMATELY  
22 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF STURGEON FALLS. IT WAS  
ALMOST COMPLETELY INUNDATED WHEN THE STURGEON RIVER  
OVERFLOWED EARLY THIS MONTH AND ALL 94 HOMES IN THE  
COMMUNITY HAD TO BE EVACUATED.

MY QUESTION IS: WILL THE GOVERNMENT  
BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US TO A TOTAL OF \$100,000  
OF THE FLOOD DAMAGE SPRINGS AND CANNELL AND THE  
PROVINCE ASKED FOR \$200,000. THEY FEEL  
PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION.

WE HAVE ALL BEEN QUANTIFIED BY THE SYMPATHETIC  
RESPONSE TO THE FLOOD TRAGEDY FROM ACROSS CANADA AND  
PARTICULARLY FROM COMMUNITIES LIKE COBALT WHICH CAME  
THROUGH SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE PAST.

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IN CONSIDERING RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMUNITY, THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FIELD TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE VULNERABLE POSITION OF HOMES LOCATED ON THE FLOOD PLAIN OF THE STURGEON RIVER AND DECIDED IT WAS PREFERABLE TO RELOCATE THE TOWNSITE TO HIGHER GROUND RATHER THAN DEVELOP EXTRAORDINARY FLOOD CONTROL WORKS.

THEY ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP WITH THE EXTRA COSTS OF FLOOD RELATED SERVICES OVER THE PAST MONTH AND FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THE RE-LOCATION PROGRAM.

LAST NIGHT I WAS ABLE, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, TO RE-ASSURE THEM OF BOTH.

ON THE FIRST QUESTION, MY COLLEAGUE THE SOLICITOR GENERAL HAS UNDERTAKEN TO PROVIDE UP TO A TOTAL OF \$190,000 TO THE TOWNSHIPS OF FIELD, SPRINGER AND CALDWELL AND THE TOWN OF STURGEON FALLS TOWARD EXTRA COSTS THEY FACE AS A RESULT OF THE FLOOD.

MY COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF HOUSING IS ACQUIRING A NUMBER OF MOBILE HOMES WHICH WILL BE LOCATED ON GOVERNMENT OWNED LAND AT STURGEON FALLS FOR USE AS TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR THE DISPLACED FAMILIES WHO HAVE NOT FOUND ACCOMMODATION ELSEWHERE.





AT THE SAME TIME MY COLLEAGUES THE MINISTER OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF HOUSING WILL HELP THE TOWNSHIP TO ACQUIRE AND DEVELOP A NEW TOWNSITE THEY HAVE SELECTED ABOVE THE FLOOD PLAIN TO PROVIDE ENOUGH SERVICED HALF-ACRE LOTS TO HANDLE THE RELOCATION.

EACH HOME OWNER WITH RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ON THE FLOOD PLAIN AND THIS INCLUDES THOSE IN THE VILLAGE OF FIELD AS WELL AS CRYSTAL FALLS AND RIVER VALLEY, WILL BE GIVEN A NEW SERVICED LOT IN RETURN FOR TITLE TO HIS OR HER PRESENT PROPERTY -- THAT IS A LOT FOR LOT EXCHANGE.

WHERE IT IS FEASIBLE OR PRACTICAL THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE THEIR EXISTING HOUSE TO THEIR NEW LOT AT OUR EXPENSE.

WHERE HOMES ARE DAMAGED OR UNSUITABLE FOR RELOCATION WE WILL PURCHASE THEM AT FAIR MARKET VALUE -- ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE FLOOD, OF COURSE, AND THE OWNERS CAN REBUILD ON THEIR LOT IN THE NEW TOWNSITE OR ELSEWHERE.

IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT THE VICTIMS OF THIS MISFORTUNE ARE NOT FURTHER CRIPPLED IN FINDING ALTERNATE HOUSING WE PLAN SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WITH HOMES OF LOWER THAN NORMAL VALUE.





TO DO THIS WE WILL PROVIDE UP TO \$5,000 IN SPECIAL FUNDING ON TOP OF THE PRICE OF ANY HOUSE WHOSE FAIR MARKET VALUE, DETERMINED BY INDEPENDENT APPRAISERS, IS LESS THAN \$20,000.

FOR EXAMPLE THE OWNER OF A HOUSE VALUED AT \$12,000 WOULD RECEIVE THE FULL AMOUNT TO BRING THE PRICE TO \$17,000, WHILE ONE VALUED AT \$18,000 WOULD RECEIVE \$2,000 TO THE \$20,000 CEILING.

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THIS PROGRAM AND MINIMIZE HARDSHIPS AND DELAY THE GOVERNMENT HAS DESIGNATED HERB AIKEN, MY ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO AS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOURCES ARE READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL AND THE RESIDENTS OF FIELD.

AS I SAID, MR. SPEAKER, I HAVE ALREADY OUTLINED OUR RESPONSE TO THE COUNCIL AND MR. AIKEN WILL ATTEND A MEETING OF RESIDENTS ON SATURDAY MORNING TO RESPOND TO THEIR CONCERNS.

AT THE SAME TIME I ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF MY CABINET COLLEAGUES WILL MEET HERE TUESDAY WITH THE OWNERS OF THE FIELD LUMBER COMPANY TO SEE HOW WE CAN ASSIST THEM TO OVERCOME THE RAVAGES OF THE FLOOD ON THEIR OPERATION WHICH IS SUCH AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE COMMUNITY.

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FINALLY, MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A BRIEF WORD OF ADMIRATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS IN WEST NIPISSING AND THE PEOPLE OF FIELD WHO HAVE SUFFERED THIS APPALING MISFORTUNE WITH GREAT FORTITUDE, COURAGE AND FORSIGHT.

WHAT WE ARE SEEING FROM THEM IS A MARVELOUS DEMONSTRATION OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT AND I THINK WE IN THIS HOUSE ARE HONORED TO BE ABLE TO HELP THEM TO FACE THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE.

THANK YOU.





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BERNIER, Leo

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